

# STATE OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



**Weekly Update**  
January 31, 2007



**Mission Statement:**

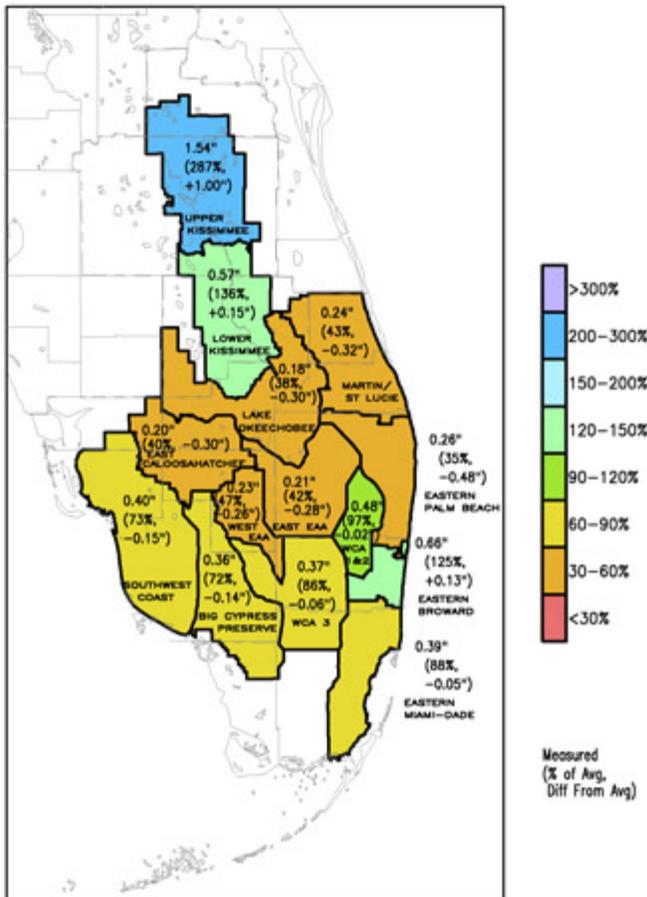
*To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.*

## District News and Happenings

- On January 26, NBC Nightly News, The Today Show, PBS and several local media crews filmed an underwater dive at Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West. Divers were installing water flow monitoring equipment in the culverts.
- The District's Miami-Dade Service Center participated in the Seventh Annual Little River Day held on Saturday, which drew both young and old participants who pitched in to clean up their waterway. Local residents hit the water in canoes and kayaks near N.E. 82 Street at the juncture of the Little River and the F.E.C. railroad tracks to pick up loose debris.

## District Rainfall

SFWMD Rainfall  
24-JAN-2007 to 30-JAN-2007



DISTRICT-WIDE: 0.46" (91%, -0.04")



[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

South Florida Water Management District  
[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

**Rainfall overview:**

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 0.46 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for near average rainfall.

**System-wide overview:**

A cold front will produce scattered shower activity mainly in the northern area of the District Thursday night and Friday as it moves into central Florida and stalls. The front is then forecast to shift north of the District on Saturday before returning south and moving through the District on Sunday. The precipitation outlook for the next 10 days is near average.

**Lake Okeechobee:**

The lake stage is approximately 11.70 feet NGVD 29 (10.4 feet NAVD 88), and is 0.16 feet lower than it was on this date last week. Surface inflows are 7 cubic feet per second (cfs). Surface outflows are 3,267 cfs of which about 80 percent is going towards Everglades Agricultural Area water supply demands. No algal blooms were observed during the January sampling efforts.

**Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:**

The upper basin received 1.61 inches of rain over the last seven days to bring the 30-day total to 1.93 inches, which is 83 percent of the long-term average. The lower basin received 0.60 inches of rain to bring the 30-day total to 0.63 inches, which is 35 percent of the long-term average. Despite the rainfall received during the past week, lake stages increased only slightly. Lake stages remain between the upper (high pool) and lower (low pool) stage limits of their respective regulation schedules and are below schedule for this time of year. Water levels within the area of Phase I of Kissimmee River Restoration Project continue to remain fairly stable.

**St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:**

In the St. Lucie Estuary, no releases occurred at S-80 or S-308 during the past week. Salinity readings increased, but remain within the preferred range, and salinity conditions in the estuary are good. The environmental releases to the Caloosahatchee Estuary that began on December 16 continue with a goal of maintaining a discharge of 250 cfs at S-79 from a combination of releases from Lake Okeechobee and runoff from the C-43 Basin. During the past week, discharge at S-79 has averaged 233 cfs with 100 percent supplied by releases from Lake Okeechobee. Salinity in the upper estuary remains high, but releases from S-79 continue to moderate concentrations. Salinity conditions in the lower estuary and San Carlos Bay are good.

**Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):**

Recession rates slowed significantly due to the rainfall. However, the rainfall was not enough to cause any reversals. WCA-1 received 0.44 inches for the week, WCA-2A received 0.88 inches, WCA-2B received 1.18 inches, WCA-3A received 0.69 inches and WCA-3B received 0.98 inches. Water depths continue to approach levels suitable for wading bird foraging success with depths ranging between 0.68 feet and 2.2 feet. Fair wading bird foraging conditions can now be found in the northern regions of WCA-1, throughout WCA-2A, in the northeast sections of WCA-3A, in the southern section of WCA-3B and in northeast Shark River Slough. As been the case since November, WCA-1 and WCA-3 continue to be below the regulation schedule, while WCA-2A remains above regulation schedule.

**Everglades National Park:**

The Park received 0.81 inches of rain this past week, and water levels in the Park wetlands showed a mixed response. In the panhandle, water levels increased by nearly 0.25 inches from last week's report. To the west at Craighead Pond, water level was down slightly by just over 0.1 inches to about 1.1 feet above ground surface. The water level also dropped at Taylor Slough Bridge by just over 2

inches from last week. All sites are somewhat lower than they were at this time last year.

*Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the Park. The map above captures District rain gauge data only.*

**Florida Bay:**

Salinity concentrations were stable in most areas of the Bay, but there are signs of weakened creek flows allowing bay water to move farther upstream.

**Biscayne Bay:**

Salinity conditions increased offshore, but remained unchanged nearshore in Biscayne Bay from November 16 through December 15. Daily rainfall ranged from 0-0.5 inches, with a cumulative rainfall of approximately 1.3 inches. Daily salinity within the bay changed little during this time, less than 4 parts per thousand baywide. Salinity conditions also increased slightly in Manatee Bay.

**Area Water Restrictions:**

Where the South Florida Water Management District and Southwest Florida Water Management District boundaries overlap in Highlands, Polk and Charlotte counties, the Southwest Florida Water Management District water restrictions need to be followed countywide.

A Water Shortage Order with mandatory water use restrictions remains in effect in the Lake Okeechobee Service Area and the Northern Indian Prairie Basin. A Water Shortage Warning remains in effect in the Lower East Coast region where all users are asked to continue voluntary water conservation activities.

<http://www.sfwmd.gov/site/index.php?id=52>

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**Did you know?**

The South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Niki Spencer at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6004.

*\* SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.*